AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A suture anchor system for anchoring tissue to bone, comprising:

a substantially solid, elongate body having proximal and distal ends with a longitudinal axis extending therebetween, the body including at least one longitudinally extending bone-engaging surface feature formed thereon and extending substantially between the proximal and distal ends;

a continuous suture-receiving channel extending distally from opposed sides of the proximal end of the body around the distal end of the body, the suture-receiving channel being adapted to seat a suture therein;

a first loop of suture thread freely-slidably disposed around the elongate body within the at least one suture-receiving channel, the suture loop including a proximal portion that is positioned proximal to the proximal end of the body.

2. (Original) The suture anchor of claim 1, wherein the suture-receiving channel is adapted to seat the suture loop flush or sub-flush with an outer surface of the body.

3. (Original) The suture anchor of claim 1, wherein the substantially solid, elongate body includes a plurality of longitudinally extending bone-engaging surface features formed thereon.

4. (Original) The suture anchor of claim 1, wherein the suture-receiving channel is adapted to seat and engage the suture loop, yet allow slidable movement of the suture loop.

5. (Original) The suture anchor of claim 1, wherein the suture-receiving channel includes a substantially concave cavity formed in a distal-most end of the body, the cavity being adapted to seat a knot formed in the suture loop.

6. (Original) The suture anchor of claim 5, wherein the cavity is adapted to seat the knot flush or sub-flush with an outer surface of the body.

7. (Original) The suture anchor of claim 5, wherein the cavity has a substantially hemi-spherical shape.

8. (Original) The suture anchor of claim 1, wherein the at least one longitudinally extending bone-engaging surface feature comprises at least one ridge.

9. (Original) The suture anchor of claim 1, wherein the at least one longitudinally extending bone-engaging surface feature comprises at least one discrete pyramid-shaped surface feature.

10. (Original) The suture anchor of claim 1, wherein the elongate body is substantially cylindrical and includes a distal tip portion that tapers in a distal direction.

11. (Original) The suture anchor of claim 1, further comprising a driver-receiving element formed in the proximal end of the elongate body.

12. (Currently Amended) A suture anchor adapted to be disposed within bone, comprising:

an elongate body having a proximal end, a distal end, and at least one discrete longitudinally extending bone-engaging surface feature formed thereon extending substantially between the proximal and distal ends and adapted to engage bone;

a transversely-extending suture tunnel formed proximal to the distal end of the body such that the distal end of the body has a substantially solid distal tip;

first and second opposed suture-receiving channels formed in the body and extending from the proximal end of the body and terminating at the suture tunnel; and

a suture loop disposed within the first and second opposed suture-receiving channels and the transversely-extending suture tunnel, the suture loop including a proximal portion positioned proximal of the proximal end of the body.

13. (Original) The suture anchor of claim 12, wherein the first and second opposed suture-receiving channels are in communication with the suture tunnel.

14. (Original) The suture anchor of claim 12, wherein the elongate body includes a plurality of discrete bone-engaging surface features formed thereon and adapted to engage bone.

15. (Original) The suture anchor of claim 12, wherein the suture loop includes a knot that is

positioned within the transversely-extending suture tunnel.

16. (Original) The suture anchor of claim 12, wherein the first and second opposed suture-receiving channels are adapted to seat the suture loop flush or sub-flush with an outer surface of the body.

17. (Original) The suture anchor of claim 12, wherein the first and second opposed suture-receiving channels are adapted to seat and engage the suture loop, yet allow slidable movement of the suture loop.

18. (Original) The suture anchor of claim 17, wherein the at least one discrete bone-engaging surface feature comprises at least one discrete pyramid-shaped surface feature.

19. (Original) The suture anchor of claim 12, wherein the elongate body tapers from a proximal end to a distal end.

20. (Original) The suture anchor of claim 12, further comprising a driver-receiving element formed in the proximal end of the elongate body.

21. (Original) A method for anchoring suture in bone, comprising:

providing a suture anchor having

a generally elongate body with proximal and distal ends,

a suture-receiving member formed on at least a portion of the body, and

a suture loop extending around at least a portion of the body and positioned in the suture-receiving member such that a proximal portion of the suture loop is positioned proximal of the proximal end of the elongate body;

providing an operative suture;

forming a bone cavity within a bony structure;

passing the operative suture through the proximal portion of the suture loop; and

implanting the suture anchor in the bone cavity such that the operative suture extends from the cavity and is freely slidable with respect to the suture loop.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the suture-receiving member comprises opposed

longitudinally oriented suture-receiving channels formed in an outer surface of the body and originating at and extending distally from the proximal end of the body.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the suture-receiving member further includes a cavity formed in a distal-most end of the elongate body and adapted to seat a knot formed in the suture loop.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the suture-receiving member further includes a transversely-extending suture tunnel formed distal to the proximal end, the opposed suture-receiving channels terminating at the suture tunnel, and the suture loop extending through the suture tunnel.

25. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the suture-receiving channels are adapted to seat the suture loop flush or sub-flush with an outer surface of the body.

26. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the suture-receiving channels are adapted to seat and engage the suture loop, yet allow slidable movement of the suture loop.

27. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the suture-receiving member comprises a single suture-receiving channel formed in an outer surface of the body and extending distally from opposed sides of the proximal end of the body around the distal end of the body.

28. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the at least one bone-engaging surface feature comprises longitudinally extending ridges.

29. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the elongate body tapers from a proximal end to a distal end.

30. (Currently Amended) A suture anchor adapted to be disposed within bone, comprising:

an elongate body having a proximal end, a distal end, and at least one discrete longitudinally extending bone-engaging surface feature formed thereon <u>extending substantially between the proximal and distal ends</u> and adapted to engage bone;

a transversely-extending suture tunnel formed proximal to the distal end of the body such that the distal end of the body has a substantially solid distal tip;

first and second opposed suture-receiving channels formed in the body and extending from the proximal end of the body and terminating at the suture tunnel; and

a suture loop disposed within the first and second opposed suture-receiving channels and the transversely-extending suture tunnel, the suture loop including a proximal portion positioned proximal of the proximal end of the body, wherein the suture loop includes a knot that is positioned within the transversely-extending suture tunnel.